

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the second paragraph on page 4 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figs. 2-5, according to the present invention, the interior surface 21 of a sterilization container lid 22 (vent planar member) has a vent 23 formed by holes 24 by which sterilization media can pass through vent planar member 22 into container 10. Although vent 23 is illustrated as a pattern of holes 234 forming a generally square shape, vent 23 could just as well be a plurality of holes forming a rectangular, circular or some other shape.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 4 with the following paragraph:

Surrounding the vent 23 on the interior surface 21 is a vent recess 26. A soft durometer gasket 27 constructed of temperature tolerant material (such as silicone) is bonded into the recess 26 and surrounds the vent 23. While the gasket 27 is shown having a generally rectangular cross-section and formed in a square circumferential shape, gasket 27 may have a different cross-section (round, oval, rectangular, triangular, etc.) to accommodate a different size and shape of the vent 23 and vent recess 26.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 29 of page 4 with the following paragraph:

A sheet filter 36 overlays the vent 23 at the interior surface 21 of lid 22 and is secured there by a generally planar filter cover 37 which has a pattern of cover holes 38 that are offset from vent holes 24 (Fig. 4) when cover 37 is

locked in position at posts 39 by a locking mechanism 40. Mechanisms for locking a filter cover to a vent using slots or aligning posts such as posts 39 and establishing positive pressure on the cover against the vent are well known in the art and therefore require no further description.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 5 with the following paragraph:

As best seen in Fig. 5, when the vent cover 37 is locked in position over the vent 23 with a sheet filter 36 therebetween (the sheet filter 36 is sized to ~~include~~ extend over and cover the vent recess 36), the cover ridge 43 is forced ~~into~~ against vent recess 26 with a positive pressure, causing filter 36 and gasket 27 to be compressed together between lid 23 and cover 37, establishing a fluid-tight seal surrounding the vent 11. The gasket 27 in the vent recess 26 is critical to the fluid-tight seal and must be undamaged to be an effective barrier against contamination.